

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: BRUECKMANN CASE

REF: A. BONN 6235

B. BERLIN 672

C. BERLIN 602

1. DEPT. SHARES USBER DESIRE FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN
BRUECKMANN CASE, BUT IS CONCERNED LEST FEDERAL CONSTITU-
TIONAL COURT'S DECISION AND REACTION BY BERLIN OPINION
MAKERS SUBSTANTIALLY CIRCUMSCRIBE TRIPARTITE FREEDOM OF
ACTION. IF KARLSRUHE DECISION IS ALLOWED SET PATTERN FOR
FUTURE, WE WOULD ASSUME CONSTITUTIONAL COURT WOULD HEAR
APPEALS FROM BERLIN CASES, WOULD PASS ON CONSTITUTIONALITY
OF LAWS CONCERNED, AND WOULD STATE PRINCIPLES FOR DETER-
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MINING WHETHER LAW WAS APPLIED IN CONSTITUTIONAL MANNER BY

BERLIN AUTHORITIES. EVEN IF KARLSRUHE GAVE NO DIRECT INSTRUCTION TO BERLIN COURTS OR OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO STAY WITHIN ALLIED RESERVATION, BERLIN COURTS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COMPLY WITH SUBSTANCE OF SUCH FRG "ADVISORY" OPINIONS. THIS WOULD ESTABLISH IN JUDICIAL AREA INDIRECT PROCESS SIMILAR TO THAT BY WHICH FRG LEGISLATION IS TAKEN OVER IN BERLIN BY ACTION OF BERLIN LEGISLATIVE BODY.

2. IN THE ABSTRACT THIS MIGHT BE RATIONALIZED AS BEING IN BEST INTERESTS OF BERLIN. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, ALTER BASIC RESERVATION LODGED BY ALLIES IN EARLY 1950'S TO EFFECT THAT FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT HAS NO COMPETENCE FOR BERLIN MATTERS. CITATION OF NIEKISCH CASE AIDE MEMOIRE ON CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, IN LETTER OF ALLIED AMBASSADORS TRANSMITTING QA TO FRG CHANCELLOR, COMMITS US TO AVOID UNILATERAL CHANGE IN THIS AREA TO BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

3. RECENT KARLSRUHE DECISION MUST ALSO BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF LIKELY OUTCOME OF BRUECKMANN'S FIGHT TO AVOID EXTRADITION TO GDR. IF KAMMERGERICHT REVERSES ITSELF AND PERMITS BRUECKMANN TO STAY IN WEST BERLIN, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT IT CITES KARLSRUHE OR STRASBOURG DECISION, SOVIETS (AND GDR) WILL DOUBTLESSLY CHARGE WESTERN VIOLATION OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. WE ARE LIKELY TO FIND OURSELVES FACED WITH FOLLOWING UNAPPEALING ALTERNATIVES IF WE SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING UNTIL AFTER BERLIN COURTS ACT. WE MIGHT HAVE TO:

A. ORDER SENAT TO DISREGARD KARLSRUHE DECISION AND REHEARING. SERIOUS POLITICAL RECRIMINATIONS FOR EXTRADITING GIRL WOULD THEN FALL ON ALLIES RATHER THAN SENAT.

B. RESIST SOVIET ALLEGAIONS THAT QA HAS BEEN VIOLATED THROUGH CHANGE IN BASIC FRG-BERLIN RELATIONSHIP, EVEN THOUGH IN THIS CASE WE WOULD SHARE MANY OF SOVIET MISGIVINGS.

C. TAKE ACTION TO DEMONSTRATE OUR DISAPPROVAL OF KARLSRUHE DECISION, WITHOUT SEEKING TO FORCE EXTRADITION OF BRUECKMANN TO GDR, WHICH WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS CONFIDENTIAL

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BOWING TO SOVIET PRESSURE.

4. ANOTHER DANGER IS THAT EVEN IF WE DO WHAT BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED, NAMELY RESTATE OUR POSITION AND THEN HAVE KAMMERGERICHT AVOID DIRECT REFERENCE TO KARLSRUHE DECISION, BERLIN AUTHORITIES COULD CONSIDER THAT WE HAD SUBSCRIBED TO THEIR VIEW THAT BERLIN COURT COULD TAKE INDIRECT NOTICE OF KARLSRUHE RULING IN BERLIN CASE. THEY

WOULD THEN CONSIDER THAT WE SHOULD DEFEND THEIR ACTION VIGOROUSLY AGAINST SOVIET PROTEST.

5. SITUATION SEEMS TO US, THEREFORE, TO REQUIRE DEVELOPMENT OF SOMEWHAT MORE DEFINITE ALLIED POSITION. WE WOULD WISH TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER AND WHEN SENAT EXPECTS KAMMERGERICHT TO GRANT REHEARING. AT SUCH TIME AS KAMMERGERICHT TAKES UP CASE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR ALLIES TO RESTATE THEIR POSITION CLEARLY FOR RECORD AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS IS FEASIBLE IN BERLIN TO PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ROLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL COURT IN BERLIN MATTERS. TO THIS END, FOLLOWING AGREEMENT IN BONN GROUP.WE WOULD WISH THREE MISSIONS TO TAKE FOLLOWING ACTION:

A) HAVE SENAT INTRODUCE STATEMENT TO KAMMERGERICHT, EITHER ITSELF OR THROUGH PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, THAT ALLIES MAINTAIN THEIR VIEW THAT CONSTITUTIONAL COURT HAS NO COMPETENCE FOR BERLIN MATTERS. KAMMERGERICHT SHOULD, THEREFORE, TAKE NO ACCOUNT OF KARLSRUHE DECISION IN CONSIDERING BRUECKMANN APPEAL.

B) ISSUE BK/O FORBIDDING COURTS TO TURN OVER DOCUMENTS TO KARLSRUHE IN BERLIN CASE WITHOUT ALLIED AUTHORIZATION OR FROM STAYING EXECUTION OF DECISION IN ORDER TO PERMIT APPEAL TO KARLSRUHE.

6. IF ACTION OUTLINED PARA FIVE ABOVE IS TAKEN BEFORE DISPOSITION OF CASE, IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE THAT EITHER KAMMERGERICHT OR STRASBOURG WILL EVENTUALLY FIND MEANS TO KEEP GIRL IN WEST BERLIN, AND THAT KARLSRUHE WILL FIND MEANS TO ISSUE ADDITIONAL ADVISORY OPINIONS ON BERLIN CASES. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE BETTER POSITIONED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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AVOID CHARGES THAT WE HADYIELDED TO SOVIET PRESSURE OR TO REBUT SOVIET ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH IN IMPLEMENTATION OF QA. IF SOVIETS OR EAST GERMANS WISHED TO PRESS COMPLAINTS ABOUT KARLSRUHE ROLE IN WEST BERLIN AFFAIRS, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE WE HAD DONE ALL WE COULD AND TO REFER THEM TO FRG SINCE WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER ACTIONS OF CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. KISSINGER

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